



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733**

September 22, 2011

Stephen R. Spencer, PhD  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 348  
Albuquerque, NM 87104



653646

Dear Mr. Spencer:

This letter is a follow-up to the September 9th meeting regarding the Superfund activities at the Jackpile Pagate Uranium Mine (Jackpile) site located on the Pueblo of Laguna in New Mexico. Over the past year and a half, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has actively worked with the Department of the Interior (DOI), the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Land Management through meetings, the technical workgroup, site tours, conference calls, emails and phone communications to exchange information and inform the status of the Jackpile site. The EPA provided funding to the United States Geological Survey to have its experts participate in meetings and work groups. The DOI's participation has been beneficial in understanding the history and current conditions of uranium contamination at the Jackpile site and has informed the EPA Expanded Site Investigation report.

As you are aware, the Pueblo of Laguna has formally requested that the EPA move forward with listing the Jackpile site to the National Priorities List (NPL). The EPA has explored other options with the DOI in lieu of listing the site to address the documented releases from the Jackpile site; however, no other mechanism to adequately address the release has been identified. The EPA is therefore requesting a letter from the DOI by December 1, 2011, supporting the proposal of the Jackpile site to the NPL. The DOI's support of the listing to the NPL will demonstrate a coordinated federal approach to address this legacy of contamination on tribal lands.

The DOI's participation on the Jackpile site has been greatly appreciated and very valuable in addressing the concerns of the Pueblo of Laguna. We hope this participation will continue in the future. If you have any questions, please contact me at 214-665-6583 or John Meyer at 214-665-6742.

Sincerely,

  
Wren Stenger  
Associate Director  
Technical & Enforcement Branch